



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

DRAFT
YSB Advisory Minutes
September 8, 2015
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Sarah Dufresne, Outreach Social Worker
Larry Barlow, MMS Assistant Principal
Kevin Filchak, Intern

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:06 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- Approval of minutes 6/9/15

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - There has been significant personnel turnover and staff is working on transitioning and orienting.
 - Clinician will be hired, full time, after YSB Coordinator is hired.
 - Successful Holiday Program and Back to School Program.

IV.

- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Camperships:** Able to raise over \$5,000.00, including a \$1,200.00 grant from the Board of Education. Any extra available funds will be used to assist families with programs in town.
 - **LEAP:** Very successful program. PE teachers took higher risk children to a full day ropes course. They also took the group of students to an

Early Morning Lunch In to familiarize them with the school and ease transition stress.

- **Multi Family Therapy Group:** Dr. Haney continues to be a valuable asset to families we serve. Group continues to meet throughout the summer.
- **Special Needs Funds:** Using these funds, we were able to provide assistance to families to purchase back to school clothes. We were also able to take students shopping to obtain appropriate clothing for an interview.
- **Ongoing Groups:** Multi-Family Group, Parent Support Groups, Grief Group, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group all met throughout the summer to provide ongoing support to children and families.
- **Student Interns:** Brianna McMillan, an undergrad majoring in Human Development and Family Studies at UConn, and Lauren Scharn, an undergrad majoring in Social Work at Eastern Connecticut State University, will be joining Youth Services as interns for the semester and the year, respectively.
- **Challenge Program** Collaborated with Parks and Recreation to provide an opportunity for 16 7th and 8th grade students to challenge themselves to a week in the wilderness with rock climbing, canoeing, and hiking with the support of middle and high school staff.
- **EO Smith Representative:** Makayla Lamson will no longer be our high school representative for EO Smith due to her transition in to college.
- **Fundraising for the Mansfield Community Playground:** Only July 18th 2015 the Willimantic Athletic Club and the Mansfield Community Playground Committee held a 5K race and kids' races to raise money for the playground effort. Members of the Uconn football team attended to assist with the kids' races and \$3,125 was raised.

V. Old Business:

- **MAC Website Development:** The website has been launched. MAC will attend Open Houses at the schools and also Celebrate Mansfield to promote awareness. They are also purchasing bookmarks that will go into books at the library when they are checked out. There are also blog entries that provide information on various subjects, one of which is parental rights in the workplace when your child is sick.

VI. New Business:

- **Playground Build:** Occurring Columbus Day Weekend. As of right now, there are between 65 and 200 volunteers scheduled to assist on the build, including some UConn sports teams.
- **Annual Report:** Accomplished

VII. Other:

- None

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:28, October 13th, 2015 is the next meeting.